

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) A live bacterium preparation or food for prevention and treatment of gingivitis, periodontitis and periodontal disease, which comprises live cells of a lactic acid bacterium, *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974), as an active ingredient.
3. (Previously Presented) A live bacterium preparation or food for prevention or treatment of dental caries, which comprises live cells of a lactic acid bacterium, *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974), as an active ingredient.
4. (Previously Presented) A live bacterium preparation or food for prevention of halitosis and elimination of halitosis, which comprises live cells of a lactic acid bacterium, *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974), as an active ingredient.
5. – 6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) A live cell obtained by pure culture of a lactic acid bacterium, *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974).
8. (Previously Presented) A dry live cell obtained by pure culture of a lactic acid bacterium, *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974).

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a live lactic acid bacterium, *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974), and an oral care drug.

11. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 10, wherein the oral care drug is selected from the group consisting of sugar alcohols and oligosaccharides.

12. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 11, wherein the oral care drug is erythritol.

13. – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) An isolated strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974).

17. (Previously Presented) The live bacterium preparation or food according to claim 3, wherein the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain has an ability that, when the strain is cultured with *Streptococcus mutans* at 37°C for 24 hours, it can reduce amount of insoluble glucan produced by *Streptococcus mutans* to a level of 20% or lower compared with amount of insoluble glucan produced by *Streptococcus mutans* cultured alone.

18. (Currently Amended) The live bacterium preparation or food according to claim 2, wherein the *Lactobacillus salivarius* ~~TI~~ TI 2711 strain has an ability that, when oral cavity of a mouse is infected with a periodontopathic bacterium, *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, by administration of the bacterium to the

oral cavity once a day for consecutive three days in an amount of  $1 \times 10^9$  CFU each, and then the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain is administered to the oral cavity of the mouse once a day for consecutive three days in an amount of  $1 \times 10^9$  CFU each, the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain can reduce cell count of the periodontopathic bacterium with significance of  $P < 0.001$  according to the Wilcoxon test.

19. (Currently Amended) The live bacterium preparation or food according to claim 3, wherein the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain has an ability that, when oral cavity of a mouse is infected with a cariogenic bacterium, *Streptococcus mutans*, by administration of the bacterium to the oral cavity once a day for consecutive three days in an amount of  $1 \times 10^9$  CFU each, and then the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain is administered to the oral cavity of the mouse once a day for consecutive three days in an amount of  $1 \times 10^9$  CFU each, the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain can reduce cell count of the cariogenic bacterium with significance of  $P < 0.01$  according to the Wilcoxon test.

20. – 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 10 24, which shows higher effect for suppression of *Streptococcus mutans* proliferation and insoluble glucan production by *Streptococcus mutans* compared with sum of the effect obtainable by use of the lactic acid bacterium alone and the effect obtainable by use of an oral care drug alone, and  
wherein the oral care drug is erythritol.

26. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the isolated strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974) according to claim 16.

27. (Previously Presented) The isolated strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974) according to claim 16, wherein the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain has an ability that when the strain is cultured with *Streptococcus mutans* at 37°C for 24 hours, the strain can reduce the amount of insoluble glucan produced by *Streptococcus mutans* as compared with amount of insoluble glucan produced by *Streptococcus mutans* cultured alone.